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Urban District of Ilfracombe.



ANNUAL
HEALTH REPORT

FOR THE YEAR

1947

INCLUDING THE

Report ^{of} _{the} Medical Officer of Health

AND THE

Report of the Sanitary Inspector.

Urban District of Ilfracombe.



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HEALTH DEPARTMENT,

ILFRACOMBE.

To the Chairman and Members of the Ilfracombe Urban District Council.

MADAM CHAIRMAN, MRS. FARNDELL AND GENTLEMEN,

I beg to present my Fifth Annual Report as Temporary Medical Officer of Health for the Ilfracombe Urban District Council.

The Report is constructed on the lines indicated in the Memorandum issued by the Ministry of Health.

The population of the Urban District at the 1931 Census was 9,175; the Registrar General's estimate of the population at the middle of 1947 was 9,110.

I would like to thank Mr. F. J. Saunders, Sanitary Inspector to the Council, for all his help again during the past twelve months.

I am, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your Obedient Servant,

July 1948.

W. B. BOONE, M.A., B.M., B.Ch.

Public Health Staff :

Part-Time Officer :

Medical Officer of Health—

W. B. BOONE, M.A., B.M., B.Ch. (Oxon), M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P.

Whole-Time Officers :

Senior Sanitary Inspector and Cleansing Superintendent :

F. J. SAUNDERS, Cert. R. San. Inst., M.S.I.A.

Meat Inspector's Certificate, Royal Sanitary Institute.

Meat Inspector's Certificate, Liverpool University.

Assistant :—H. R. CURTIS, M.R.I.P.H.H.

Clerk :—Miss M. Madge.

Statistical Memoranda, 1947.

Situation	Lat. 51° 13'N. Long 4° 7'W.
Area (including Foreshore)	5,856 acres
Elevation of Area built on	19 feet to 744 feet
Geological Formation. Shale overlying limestone and sandstone	
Population (Census 1931)	9,175
Population (Registrar General's Estimate mid-year, 1947) ..	9,110
Number of Families or Separate Occupiers (Census 1931) ..	2,327
Rateable Value	£86,173
Sum represented by a Penny Rate	£345 3s. 8d.
Rainfall during 1947	34.03 inches
Bright Sunshine during 1947	1574.2 hours
Births	166
Birth-rate	18.22 per 1,000
Birth-rate (England and Wales)	20.5 per 1,000
Deaths	159
Death-rate	17.45 per 1,000
Death-rate (corrected)	Not available for 1947
Death-rate (England and Wales)	12.0 per 1,000
Zymotic Death-rate (including Influenza)	nil per 1,000
Tuberculosis Death-rate .. .. .	.32 per 1,000
Infantile Mortality	47.61 per 1,000 live births
Infantile Mortality (England and Wales)	41 per 1,000 live births

EXTRACT FROM VITAL STATISTICS OF THE YEAR.

Live Births :

	Total	Males	Females	
Legitimate	156	72	84	} Birth-rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident popula- tion 18.22
Illegitimate	10	7	3	

Still Births :

Legitimate	2	1	1	} Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births 11.90
Illegitimate	—	—	—	

Deaths	159	65	94	{ Death-rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident popula- tion 17.45
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DEATHS FROM PUERPERAL CAUSES.

(Headings 29 and 30 of the Registrar General's Short List)

			Deaths.	Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births
No. 29.	Puerperal Sepsis	.. ..	Nil	—
„ 30.	Other Maternal Causes	.. ..	Nil	—

INFANT MORTALITY.

Death-rate of Infants under one year of age—

All Infants per 1,000 live births	.. ..	47.61
Legitimate Infants per 1,000 legitimate live births		44.87
Illegitimate Infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births		100.0
Deaths from Measles (all ages)	.. ..	Nil
„ „ Whooping Cough (all ages)	.. ..	Nil
„ „ Diarrhœa (under 2 years of age)	.. ..	Nil

CAUSES OF DEATH.

Registrar General's Figures.

			Males	Females
Tuberculosis of respiratory system	...	...	1	2
Other forms of Tuberculosis	...	...	—	—
Syphilitic diseases	...	...	2	—
Influenza	...	...	—	—
Measles	...	...	—	—
Cancer	...	...	8	13
Cerebral Hæmorrhage, etc	...	...	5	13
Heart Diseases	...	...	25	46
Other diseases of circulatory system	...	...	2	1
Bronchitis	...	...	4	6
Pneumonia	...	...	4	2
Other respiratory diseases	...	...	1	1
Ulcer of stomach or duodenum	...	...	—	—
Diarrhœa, under 2 years	...	...	—	—
Appendicitis	...	...	1	2
Other digestive diseases	...	...	1	1
Nephritis	...	...	2	—
Puerperal & Post-Abort: Sepsis	...	...	—	—
Other Maternal Causes	...	...	—	—
Premature birth	...	...	3	1
Congenital malformation ; Birth injuries, etc.	...	...	1	—
Suicide	...	...	—	1
Road traffic accidents	...	...	—	—
Other violent causes	...	...	—	2
All other causes	...	...	5	3
			—	—
Total all causes	...	...	65	94

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA.

Detailed particulars of these services were given in the Annual Report for 1932 ; changes made during the present year are :

The Council Isolation Hospital at Bicclescombe has been leased at a nominal rent to the Devon County Council, who took over the premises in March 1947, for use as a Maternity Home.

Arrangements have been entered into for cases of infectious diseases from the Ilfracombe district to be admitted to the North Devon Joint Hospital Boards Isolation Hospital at Bideford.

In August of this year arrangements were entered into for cases of Acute Poliomyelitis to be admitted to the Swilly Isolation Hospital at Plymouth.

The Tuberculosis Death-rate was .32 per 1,000.

Cancer was responsible for a Death-rate of 2.30 per 1,000.

The Death-rate from Heart Disease was 7.79 per 1,000.

99 of the deaths were those of persons 70 or more years of age.

No comparability factor is available for the year 1947.

Water Supply.

The Water Supply of the town is on the " Constant System " and is obtained from gathering grounds at Challacombe and at Slade.

The Challacombe supply is fed from a watershed of more than 3,000 acres of open moor forming part of the Forest of Exmoor and is collected by means of 8 intakes.

To provide storage, an impounding reservoir with a capacity of 16,000,000 gallons has been constructed on the headwaters of the River Bray.

The water is conveyed to Ilfracombe by means of an aqueduct and pipe line, and at Hore Down there is a storage reservoir for 750,000 gallons of water, a service reservoir for 330,000 gallons and a rapid filtration plant capable of dealing with 432,000 gallons per day.

The reservoirs at Slade are supplied from a limited gathering ground in the vicinity and provide storage for approximately 50,000,000 gallons of water.

All domestic supplies are filtered and chlorinated before distribution and as at times the water has a plumbo-solvent action, the use of lead pipes is forbidden.

All houses have a piped supply with the exception of a few in the outlying parts of the district which have their own private supplies. No houses are supplied by means of standpipes.

Samples of water for chemical and bacteriological examination are submitted to the Public Health Laboratory Service at Exeter.

10 samples of water were obtained and forwarded for bacteriological examination and 3 samples for chemical examination.

1 sample from the High Level showed a slight degree of bacteriological contamination. Repeat samples were found satisfactory.

REPORTS ON THE CHEMICAL EXAMINATIONS OF WATER SAMPLES, 1947.

Date ...	...	...	9/6/47	3/4/47	9/6/47
Source	...	...	Folley Level	Low Level	High Level
Hardness—Temporary	...		0.4	0.5	1.1
Permanent		...	7.8	8.7	5.4
			<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Total ...	...	...	8.2	9.2	6.5
Chlorides, as Chlorine	...		2.0	2.4	1.5
Ammonia, free and saline, as nitrogen	...		Nil	0.009	0.003
Ammonia, albuminoid, as nitrogen			0.004	0.01	0.005
Nitrates, as nitrogen	...		0.2	0.09	0.15
Nitrites, as nitrogen	...		Nil	Nil	Nil
Oxygen absorbed (3 hrs. at 37° C)			0.03	0.041	0.02
Metals—lead, copper, zinc			Absent	Absent	Absent
pH value	...	...	7.0	7.0	7.0

Private Supplies. A sample was taken from a shallow well supplying two cottages at Pludd, and showed evidence of slight contamination.

A supply from the public mains has now been laid on.

Five dairy farms were provided with supplies from the town mains during 1947.

Sea Water Swimming Baths. Two samples of water from the Council's Sea Water Swimming Baths were bacteriologically examined. One was reported as showing slight contamination. The other was bacteriologically satisfactory.

Measles.

A small outbreak of measles occurred during the early part of the year, most were of a mild type. There were no deaths.

Diphtheria.

One case of Diphtheria was notified, all swabs gave negative results.

Diphtheria Immunisation.

The immunisation of children was continued throughout 1947, the following numbers being dealt with :

Children under 5 years of age	78
Children age 5 to 15 years	15

Cleansing Centre.

A Cleansing Centre for the treatment of scabies was in use at the Isolation Hospital, but as the Hospital has now been taken over as a Maternity Home the centre is not now available.

During 1947, 11 cases were treated, 9 of these being cured by a single treatment.

Tuberculosis.

New Cases and Mortality during 1947.

Age Periods	New Cases				Deaths			
	Respiratory		Non Respiratory		Respiratory		Non Respiratory	
	Males	Females	Males	Females	Males	Females	Males	Females
Under 1 year	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1 to 5 years	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
5 to 10 years	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
10 to 15 years	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
15 to 20 years	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
20 to 25 years	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
25 to 35 years	1	4	1	—	—	1	—	—
35 to 45 years	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
45 to 55 years	1	—	—	—	—	1	—	—
55 to 65 years	2	1	—	—	1	—	—	—
65 & upwards	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
TOTALS	6	8	2	1	1	2	—	—

SANITARY INSPECTOR'S ANNUAL REPORT

FOR THE YEAR 1947.

*To the Chairman and Members of the Ilfracombe Urban District
Council.*

MADAM CHAIRMAN, MRS. FARNDELL AND GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to present for your consideration my Twentieth Annual Report which deals with sanitary work during the year ended 31st December, 1947.

The shortage of both labour and materials again delayed the execution of much needed repair and improvement work, nevertheless some progress was made, particularly towards the end of the year.

The number of complaints received during 1947 shows a pleasing reduction especially with regard to refuse collection.

Complaints numbered 97, of these 15 referred to the presence of rats or mice ; 21 to nuisances under the Public Health Acts ; 6 related to matters outside the scope of the Public Health Acts ; 55 had reference to work under other departments, and were passed over for action. Of the latter 38 concerned choked street gullies, improvement will be effected when the mechanical gully cleaner, now on order, is delivered.

264 Preliminary notices were served in addition to 58 verbal ones being given. Statutory notices were required to deal with 32 properties.

Letters and circulars totalled 1591, and had reference to the following :

Milk Supply, 77 ; Food, 304 ; Housing, 317 ; Infectious Disease and Immunisation, 318 ; Nuisances, 95 ; Salvage, 186 ; Rodent Control, 57 ; Petroleum Acts, 83 ; Miscellaneous, 154.

42 rooms and 3540 articles were disinfected, 26 of the rooms being disinfected in consequence of infectious disease, the other 16 to eradicate vermin.

In the course of the year 99 inspections were made of the kitchens of hotels and cafes, particular attention being paid to the general cleanliness of utensils.

In several cases it was necessary to give warnings with reference to dustbins being kept inside kitchens and to caution persons found smoking whilst preparing food.

The Housing shortage became more acute during the year owing to more men having returned from the Services, the number of applicants on the waiting list is increasing and many young couples are obliged to reside with relatives or under other unsatisfactory conditions, so that unpleasantness arises. Much time is occupied in interviewing these applicants and considerable discretion is required when one is aware that at the present rate of progress, only 19 houses were erected during 1947, some of the applicants are likely to have to wait many years before they are accommodated.

SUMMARY OF SANITARY DEFECTS REMEDIED.

House roofs repaired and made watertight	...	...	...	40
Eaves gutters and downpipes repaired or renewed	...	...	...	30
Damp walls remedied	...	...	...	25
External plastering repaired	...	...	...	13
Chimney stacks repaired, rebuilt or repointed	...	...	...	3
Ceilings repaired	...	...	...	37
Plaster walls repaired	...	...	...	41
Windows repaired	...	...	...	11
Floors repaired	...	...	...	5
Kitchen stoves repaired	...	...	...	6
Walls repaired or rebuilt	...	...	...	6
Accumulations of refuse removed	...	...	...	13
New dustbins provided	...	...	...	133
Yards cleansed	...	...	...	3
Houses cleansed	...	...	...	5
Nuisance from animals abated	...	...	...	2
Water supply provided	...	...	...	15
Yards repaired	...	...	...	15
Other defects remedied	...	...	...	7

Sanitary Accommodation.

New water closets provided	...	...	...	4
Water closet basins replaced	...	...	...	3
Water closet cisterns repaired or replaced	...	...	...	21
„ „ walls repaired	...	...	...	4
„ „ floors repaired	...	...	...	4
„ „ roofs repaired	...	...	...	4
„ „ seats repaired	...	...	...	2
„ „ doors repaired	...	...	...	2

Drainage

New drainage provided	...	...	...	...	...	3
Drains relaid or repaired	...	...	...	...	...	12
Drains cleared	...	...	...	...	...	29
Inspection chambers repaired	...	...	...	...	...	2
Waste pipes repaired or renewed	...	...	...	...	...	3
Soil pipes repaired	...	...	...	...	...	2

Shops' Act.

Roofs repaired	...	...	...	...	...	1
Heating improved	...	...	...	...	...	3
Rooms cleansed	...	...	...	...	...	23
Washing accommodation provided	...	...	...	...	...	2
Water closet seats repaired	...	...	...	...	...	5
„ „ cisterns repaired	...	...	...	...	...	1
„ „ seats and pans cleansed	...	...	...	...	...	12
Sanitary accommodation provided	...	...	...	...	...	1
Other defects remedied	...	...	...	...	...	6

Factories.

Roofs repaired	...	...	...	...	...	2
Ceilings repaired	...	...	...	...	...	2
Walls cleansed	...	...	...	...	...	21
Water closet seats and pans cleansed	...	...	...	...	...	14
„ „ walls cleansed	...	...	...	...	...	13
Water closets provided	...	...	...	...	...	3
Intervening ventilated space provided	...	...	...	...	...	2
Wash basins cleansed	...	...	...	...	...	2
Accumulations refuse removed	...	...	...	...	...	4
Other defects remedied	...	...	...	...	...	6

Sewerage and Drainage. Sewage disposal is by sea outfalls, one discharging off Cheyne Beach and one between Hele and Hagginton Beaches.

The discharge from each is into a current which sets away from the shore and has proved satisfactory.

The only sewer extension during 1947 was a distance of 200 yards at Croftswood.

In September 1946, Consulting Engineers were instructed to prepare a report and scheme for the sewerage of the Parish of Lee. Surveys have commenced but the report has not yet been received.

Factories Act, 1937.

I. **Inspections** for purposes of provisions as to health.

(Inspections made by Sanitary Inspector).

Premises	Number on Register	Number of		
		Inspec- tions	Written Notices	Prosecuted Occupiers
1. Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	48	117	7	—
2. Factories not included in (1) to which Section 7 applies				
(a) Subject to the Local Authorities (Transfer of Enforcement) Order, 1938	55	114	8	—
(b) Others	—	—	—	—
3. Other Premises under the Act (excluding out-workers' premises)	6	25	—	—
Total	109	256	15	—

2. **Cases in which Defects were found.**

Particulars	Number of Cases in which Defects were				Number of defects in which Prosecutions were instituted
	Found	Remedied	Referred to H.M. Inspector	by H.M. Inspector	
Want of cleanliness (S.1) ...	21	19	—	—	—
Overcrowding (S.2) ...	—	—	—	—	—
Unreasonable temperature (S.3)	—	—	—	—	—
Inadequate ventilation (S.4)	—	—	—	—	—
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6)	—	—	—	—	—
Sanitary conveniences (S.7)					
(a) Insufficient	2	2	—	—	—
(b) Unsuitable or defective	4	3	—	1	—
(c) Not separate for sexes	2	1	—	—	—
Other offences (not including offences relating to Homework)	—	—	—	—	—
Total	29	25	Nil	1	Nil

Housing.

Housing Statistics.

1. INSPECTION OF DWELLING-HOUSES DURING THE YEAR.

(1)	(a)	Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	...	180
	(b)	Number of inspections made for the purpose	...	1208
(2)	(a)	Number of dwelling-houses (included under sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925 and 1932		26
	(b)	Number of inspections made for the purpose	...	67
(3)		Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	... ..	0
(4)		Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	...	26

2. REMEDY OF DEFECTS DURING THE YEAR WITHOUT SERVICE OF FORMAL NOTICES.

Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their officers	86
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3. ACTION UNDER STATUTORY POWERS DURING THE YEAR.

A. *Proceedings under sections 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936.*

(1)		Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs	... ..	0
(2)		Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices :		
	(a)	By owners	... ..	0
	(b)	By Local Authority in default of owners	...	0

B. *Proceedings under Public Health Acts.*

(1)		Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	...	124
(2)		Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices :		
	(a)	By owners	... ..	32
	(b)	By Local Authority in default of owners	...	0

C. *Proceedings under sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936.*

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made	0
(2) Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders	0

D. *Proceedings under section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936.*

(1) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made ...	0
(2) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit ...	0

Overcrowding. 16 houses were known to be overcrowded at the end of the year. These were occupied by 18 families consisting of 108 persons.

Overcrowding in seven other houses was abated by transferring 37 occupants to accommodation under the Council's control.

On 31st December there were 248 names on the List of Applicants for Council houses or flats.

Eradication of Bed Bugs. There were only two cases of bed bug infestation, neither of the houses were Council properties. Treatment was carried out by spraying with an insecticide after the work had been loosened, in both cases the results were satisfactory.

Holiday Camping Grounds. Two camping grounds are licensed and in use throughout the summer, several other sites are occasionally occupied for short periods. 35 inspections were made, no serious nuisances occurred.



Inspection and Supervision of Food.

MEAT AND OTHER FOODS.

Since 1942 the Public Abattoir has not been used as a slaughter-house but the large cooling room is rented to the Ministry of Food and used as a Depot for allocating meat supplied for Ilfracombe and District. The remainder of the premises were used by the Ministry as food stores, but have now been vacated.

The number of inspections made in connection with the supervision of food supplies included :—Bakehouses, 35 ; Markets, 58 ; Food Shops and Depots, 844 ; Cafes and Hotels, 113 ; Carriers' Vehicles, 40 ; Hawkers' Vehicles, 22.

Unsound meat surrendered and disposed of included :—12 lbs. forequarter beef, traumatism ; 29lbs. forequarter and 83 lbs. hind-quarter beef, bone taint ; 20 lbs. pigs offals, congestion ; 31 lbs. sausage, decomposition ; 4 lbs. mutton, abscess.

Other Unsound Food Destroyed 1947.

Apples	... 22 tins	Crawfish	... 1 tin
Grape Fruit	... 5 „	Hake	... 6 tins
Grape Fruit Juice	... 3 „	Pilchards	... 18 „
Melon and Orange	... 1 „	Salmon	... 14 „
Pears	... 7 „	Sardines	... 1 „
Peaches	... 12 „	Sea Trout	... 2 „
Rhubarb	... 2 „	Bloater Paste	... 1 „
Tomatoes	... 27 „	Cocoa	... 1 „
Grapefruit Marmalade	... 6 „	Cocconut	... 12 pkts
Jam	... 18 „	Milk	155 tins
Mincemeat	... 1 Jar	Mustard	... 1 „
Beans	... 25 tins	Pickles	... 3 bot.
Beetroot	... 19 „	Pudding Mixtures	... 88 pkts
Carrots	... 22 „	Rusks	... 2 „
Mixed Vegetables	... 5 „	Sponge Pudding	... 4 tins
Peas	... 25 „	Crabs	... 376 lbs.
Potatoes	... 2 „	Finnon Haddock	... 35 „
Spaghetti	... 3 „	Herrings	... 336 „
Spinach	... 2 „	Kippers	... 84 „
Bacon	... 3 „	Plaice	... 140 „
Chopped Ham	... 1 „	Soles	... 70 „
Corned Beef	... 13 „	Smoked Cod Fillets	1024 „
Meat and Vegetables	... 6 „	Dried Peaches	... 9 „
Sausage Meat	... 5 „	Prunes	... 67 „
Steak and Kidney	... 2 „	Onions	... 112 „
Stewed Steak	... 2 „	Biscuits	... 12½ „
Tinned Pork	... 4 „	Flour	... 28 „
Tongue	... 2 „	Sugar	... 10½ cwts
Veal Loaf	... 7 „	Margarine	... 29 lbs.
Cockles	... 2 bot.		

Total weight :—2 tons, 2 cwts., 15 lbs.

MILK SUPPLY.

Forty-three cowkeepers whose premises are in the Urban District are registered ; 19 as producer retailers, 19 as producer wholesalers, and 5 as producer retailers and wholesalers.

16 non-producers (having dairies only) are registered as retailers.

The Rationalisation Scheme of the Ministry of Food reduced the number of retailers, and there are now only 5 producers and 5 non-producing retailers in the area.

Work under the Milk and Dairies Acts and Orders entailed the following :

134 inspections of farms ; 181 inspections of cow-sheds ; 173 inspections of dairies : and 101 inspections of vehicles used for the conveyance of milk.

Twenty-two samples of milk were forwarded to the County Laboratory for biological examination.

Seventeen were reported as being free from tubercle, four owing to the premature deaths of guinea pigs gave inconclusive results, and one sample was reported as tubercle positive

The farm from which the positive sample came was visited by the Ministry of Agriculture Veterinary Officer, the infected animal was traced and slaughtered.

One licence to use the designation " Pasteurised " was issued for premises in which the milk is treated by the " Holder " process.

Sixteen samples of pasteurised milk were obtained and submitted for examination, 15 of them gave satisfactory results.

Extensions carried out have improved the efficiency of the plant in operation at the Pasteurising Depot.

Nine samples of ordinary milk were obtained and forwarded to the County Laboratory for cleanliness examination. All Passed.

Eighty-four samples of milk from the Accredited Producers were taken by the County Sampling Officer, and of these 44 passed the test.

Routine sampling of milk for keeping quality is carried out by the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries National Milk Testing Scheme samplers.

Results of the examinations are supplied to this office and advisory work is carried out by your Sanitary Inspector.

675 samples of milk were tested, and 169 or 25% were graded as being of poor keeping quality.

Most of the milk samples failing to pass the tests were from premises where milking machines were being used, and where there was no steam steriliser.

Several farmers this year installed milking machines without having steam sterilisers in use, results of milk samples prove how essential it is that steam should be used to ensure effectual sterilisation.

The long spell of dry weather made conditions difficult on some of the farms. Efforts are being made to see that every farm is provided with an adequate supply of water for all purposes. During the year a supply of water from the public mains was laid on to five farms.

Ice Cream. The Ice Cream (Heat Treatment etc.) Regulations 1947 came into operation on the 1st May and in addition to requiring precautions to prevent contamination the product must be pasteurised and afterwards rapidly cooled.

A provisional standard of grading based on the Methylene Blue Reduction Test has been adopted and the Public Health Laboratory is prepared to regularly examine samples.

59 samples of ice cream were obtained and submitted for examination ; 19 of the samples were graded 1 ; 17 were grade 2 ; 13 were placed in grade 3 and 10 in grade 4.

The grading standards are at present provisional only and methods of manufacture and composition are still being investigated.

Food and Drugs Act, 1938.

The following table shows the samples taken during the year with the results of their examination :

Article	Number taken		Total	Results of Examination
	Formal	Informal		
New Milk	... 15	1	16	14 Genuine. Sample No. 147 was reported as being 4 per cent deficient in fats, and Sample No. 591 as being 7 per cent deficient in fats.
Baking Powder...	1	—	1	Genuine.
Black Currant Flavour Cordial...	1	—	1	Below standard.
Pepper	... 1	—	1	Genuine.
Salad Oil	... 1	—	1	Genuine.
Sausage Meat	... 1	—	1	Genuine.
	20	1	21	

Sample No. 147. This was 4 per cent deficient in fats. A witnessed milking sample was taken about 7 days after the first sample, and showed a fat content of 3.5 per cent. In view of the small deficiency in the first sample a warning letter was sent.

Sample No. 591. This milk was 7 per cent deficient in fats. Proceedings were instituted, the case being dismissed on payment of 4/- court costs and 21/- Analyst's fee.

Sample No. 503. This was purchased in a bottle labelled "Black Currant Flavour Cordial," the Analyst's report showed the sample contained.

" Acid expressed as

Crystalline citric acid not more than 7.04 ozs. in 10 gallons.

Sugar not more than 13 lbs. in 10 gallons.

The Soft Drinks Order 1946 requires :—

Acid expressed as

Crystalline citric acid not less than 16 ozs. in 10 gallons.

Added sugar not less than 15 lbs. in 10 gallons.

The sample was therefore 56% deficient of the proper proportion of crystalline citric acid, and 13% deficient of the proper proportion of sugar."

A report on this sample was submitted to the Ministry of Food.

Shops Act. 238 inspections were made in accordance with this Act, in three shops heating was inadequate and in 21 others defects were found. All were remedied on complaint being made to the person responsible.

Licensed Houses. 23 supervisory visits were paid to licensed premises. One extra water closet has been provided for female customers and hot water has been provided for two more bar sinks.

At the end of the year several improvement schemes incorporating additional sanitary conveniences and the supply of hot water for bar sinks, in addition to other improvements were held up owing to building licence restrictions.

Petroleum (Consolidation) Act, 1928.

41 licences were issued for the storage of a total of 37,205 gallons of petroleum-spirit.

Two licences to store 170 galls. of petroleum mixtures were granted.

The amount of fees received by the Local Authority was £25 0s. 0d.

220 Inspections were made under the Act.

RODENT DISINFESTATION.

In connection with the Rats and Mice (Destruction) Act 1919, and the Infestation Order 1943, 1,965 inspections were made of 1,326 different premises.

153 premises were infested and all were treated.

515 lbs. of pre-bait was used, 265 lbs. of this being taken.

277 lbs. of poison bait was laid and 149 lbs. taken.

575 dead rodents were picked up.

Based on the actual takes of poison it is estimated that 5,700 rodents were destroyed.

Treatments of the sewers were carried out during June and July, and with very few exceptions were found free from rats.

Throughout the year Mr. H. Kingdon continued work as operator in a very satisfactory manner. Co-operation has been maintained with the Ministry of Food Rodent Destruction Department, and with the Devon Agricultural Committee Pest Department, who operate on agricultural properties.

Public Cleansing.

Public Cleansing is now carried out by men in the Council's direct employ, the Dennis Barrier-type Rear-loading vehicle purchased by the Council in October 1946 gave very satisfactory service throughout 1947. Another vehicle was ordered and should have been delivered in April, but up to the end of the year the machine had not arrived.

The non-delivery of this second vehicle prevented a bi-weekly collection being made from all houses, but by arrangement of the men's working hours it was possible, during the season, to run the vehicle for twelve hours each day so that a collection was made once each week from all houses, a daily collection from the larger hotels and fish shops and a twice weekly collection from certain other premises.

The number of complaints this year, which was the first year of direct control, was less than any previous year and it was found practical to remedy the complaints almost immediately.

849 loads of house and trade refuse were collected and based on test weighings this amounted to approximately 3,396 tons, representing about $7\frac{1}{2}$ cwts. per head of the population.

Allowing a sum of £165 15s. 5d. for loan and interest charges on the vehicle and £50 for Depot expenses, the cost to the Council for the first year's working (i.e. 1/10/46 to 30/9/47) was £1701 2s. 5d., a saving of £418 7s. 3d. on the sum of £2,119 9s. 8d. which would have been paid had the previous contract been continued for that period. The annual cost of collection represents a sum of 3/9½d. per head of the population.

At the Council's Depot hot Shower Baths are provided for the use of the men engaged in refuse collecting. These showers are much appreciated and used by the men.

Before Salvage collecting commenced all paper was burnt in an incinerator at the Council Yard and to carry out this work the service of a man for three days per week was required.

This incinerator being situated in the centre of the town gave rise to many complaints.

The incinerator has now been demolished and all paper is saved.

All refuse is disposed of by tipping at the Council's Tip at Killicleave. Two men are employed in packing and covering the refuse, maintaining the roadway and keeping the site in a satisfactory condition. Builders' waste is used for building and repairing the road, and construction and repair of a road approximately half a mile long has been carried out entirely with waste materials.

Shrubs have been planted around the land to screen the tipping point.

Killicleave Tip has now been in use for 27 years and the lower portion of the valley having been filled in, it is now possible to carry out controlled tipping in shallow layers. The site is capable of accommodating all the town refuse for several more years.

The total number of loads dumped at the Tip during 1947 was: 847 loads of house and trade refuse, 309 loads of other refuse, 761 loads of street sweepings, 1,250 loads of builders' waste and 71 loads of gulley cleanings.

Street Cleansing. Cleansing of the streets is done under the direction of the Sanitary Inspector. Five men are regularly employed in sweeping and are also required to do weeding of certain roads.

Two men are engaged with a steel lined 5 cwt. Austin van to collect all sweepings. One man is employed part-time for sweeping in Lee Village.

In addition to the loads of sweepings taken to the Tip, ninety loads of leaves were collected from the roads and disposed of to gardeners.

Although the same staff was employed as in previous years there was, this summer, more difficulty in keeping clean certain areas, owing to the increased sale in the vicinity, of ice cream in paper wrappers.

Litter receptacles are fixed in most convenient positions, but the public often fail to make use of them.

Public Conveniences. There are 21 public conveniences in the district, 11 for men and 10 for ladies.

Caretakers are present all day for the Pavilion conveniences, but the others are cleaned each morning and an attendant revisits each one later in the day.

No public conveniences are provided at Lee and the Council have under consideration such provision when circumstances permit.

The unsatisfactory ladies convenience in Avenue Road has been closed and the men's convenience has been converted for the use of ladies.

Salvage.

A separate staff using a motor van is employed for the collection of Salvage.

Ilfracombe has continued to maintain one of the best salvage collection records in the County, but it is found that much useful salvage, particularly paper, is thrown away with refuse into dustbins and from time to time a man has been employed to sort out this paper.

Ilfracombe Paper collection during 1947 averaged each month $29\frac{3}{4}$ cwts. per 1,000 of the population, as against an average of 9.6 cwts. for Urban Districts in England and Wales.

Paper collected this year shows an increase of nearly 15 tons over 1946 ; Iron collection is 17 tons less. Bottles brought in £22 more than the previous year, but jars showed a reduction of £17, bones are over a ton short of the 1946 figure and rags are slightly more.

Salvage has been collected in Ilfracombe since 1940 and during the eight years the quantity amounts to 2,062 tons, and the amount received £9,394 1s. 6d.

Kitchen waste is regularly collected by local pig and poultry feeders, the Department assists this collection by liason work between householders who have waste to dispose of and feeders who require it for their stock.

Kitchen waste collected during the year was 151 tons.

SALVAGE COLLECTIONS AND SALES

DURING 1947.

Tons.	Cwts.	qrs.	lbs.			£	s.	d.
161	11	1	0	Paper & Books	...	1137	17	10
12	3	0	5	Iron	...	30	8	5
	1	2	22	Aluminium	...	3	2	0
	4	1	22	Brass	...	7	4	4
		1	19	Copper	...		16	9
	4	0	15	Lead	...	9	13	3
			7½	Pewter	...		7	6
			13	Tinfoil	...		1	8
	9	0	0	Zinc	...	7	16	0
8	10	1	14	Rags	...	134	6	9
2	17	1	14	Carpet and Sacking	...	8	14	3
		3	21	Rubber	...		12	4
	3	2	0	Cord	...		12	0
			22	Hair	...		10	0
		1	0	Felt Hats	...	1	16	0
	3	0	0	Records	...	3	3	0
1	5	0	21	Bottles	...	37	9	0
2	4	3	25	Jars	...	25	0	9
2	13	2	10	Bones	...	15	8	6
			22	Gaskets	...		2	3
				Grant from the Ministry of Supply for Increased Paper Collection		38	6	10
192	13	3	0½			£1463	9	5

I am,

Your obedient servant,

F. J. SAUNDERS.

